

LOCAL NEWS.

Valuable oyster grounds are offered for sale in this issue by Capt. W. J. Marshall, Shady Side, Va.

The American Fish Guano Company are offering wet scrap in quantities to suit at low rates for cash.

Hon. Gilmore S. Kendall, qualified before Judge Gillet at Accomac C. H., last Tuesday as judge of Northampton County Court.

If you are interested, go to Parkside next Thursday, at 1 o'clock p. m., and assist in organizing the Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Mr. J. F. Parks, Parkside, wheelwright and undertaker, through our columns solicits the favors of the public. In all respects worthy, we cordially commend him.

A board of managers for the Home Fire Insurance Company will be elected in a general meeting of the members at Parkside, on next Thursday, the 6th of March, at 1 o'clock p. m.

The bill to incorporate the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Eastern Shore of Virginia, has passed both branches of our Legislature and been approved by the Governor.

Prof. S. T. Ford, the great New York elocutionist, will lecture at Parkside, E. Church, Monday night, March 17th. Go to hear him and if you don't cry and laugh, claim the premium. Admission 25 cents.

An oyster and terrapin supper will be given at Leemont, M. P. Parsonage, 7 p. m., next Wednesday, or if weather inclement at that time, the first fair night thereafter. Proceeds to be applied to payment of parsonage debt.

Lopus guano, Pocomo phosphate, special sweet potato guano, bone phosphate for grass and corn, fine and refuse salt, farming implements, furniture and general merchandise for sale at very low prices. By Finney & Rogers.

Geo. T. Clayton was convicted at February term of court for selling liquor without license. A fine of \$100 and costs of imprisonment was imposed upon him by the jury for the offense and his term of imprisonment fixed by Judge at 30 days.

The M. E. Church, Onancock, caught fire last Sunday, but before it made much headway was discovered and soon extinguished. The fire from furnace had melted two layers of zinc which was thought to be sufficient protection to the floor underneath, where the fire started.

The citizens of Cape Charles City want the courthouse moved to that place and bills have been introduced into the Legislature for a vote on the question and to permit them to borrow \$5,000 to be expended in the erection of said courthouse at Cape Charles, in the event enough votes can be obtained for the removal.

Our townsman, Mr. W. C. Coleburn, in passing around his store last Tuesday, ran against a piece of glass projecting from a box, inflicting a severe flesh wound in thigh, which confined him to his bed during Wednesday. The wound was a very painful one at the time, but not dangerous, and he is again at his post behind the counter.

Mr. F. K. Weed has not left Exmore, as reported, but continues to run his gallery there, and is doing good work at reasonable prices. Views of dwellings, farms, &c., are also taken by him and orders for same solicited. Call on him and get photographs of yourself nicely executed by him as presents for your friends.

Especially attention is invited to the advertisement of J. D. Dickerson, Jenkin's Bridge, which appears in this issue. They have made, as is seen, a new departure and propose for the cash to make it profitable for you to deal with them. The prices of a few articles showing the great bargains offered, appear in this issue—more will be given next week.

Silverthorn & Co., No. 303 South Front St., Philadelphia, can furnish farmers with all kinds of choice seed, such as choice Houlton and Vermont Early Rose, and Beauty of Hebron potatoes, extra early Cleveland and Hancock peas, white and red onion sets, and choice Jersey seed sweet potatoes. Orders must be accompanied with cash or good reference.

Bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives by Hon. T. H. Bayly Browne, authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to award a gold medal of the first class to J. B. Wheaton, of Virginia for saving the lives of the captain and two of the crew of the schooner Allie R. Chester, wrecked off Cape Hatteras, N. C., in January, 1889—and to pension members of the life saving service, disabled in the line of duty and widows and children of those who lost their lives in the discharge of their duty.

William Kline and James T. Annis, witnesses summoned to testify before the County Court at February term, put in their appearance in an intoxicated condition and for their contempt in appearing in such condition were fined \$5 each by Judge Gillet—and the said Kline and Annis and Custis Taylor were arrested on same day for breach of peace so near to the court as to disturb its proceedings and were each also fined by the Judge \$2.50, and recognized for good behavior for six months with security.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES.

Chincoteague.

Mrs. Mary Watson died on Assateague, January 21st, aged 83 years. She was a native of this place. Very many children and grand children survive her.

The Southern Feather Renovating Company, now conducting their business at this place in a manner satisfactory to their patrons, will give concerts two or three nights next week for the benefit of our churches.

Mr. Jos. G. Baker, formerly of Maryland, now a merchant of Chincoteague and Miss Ella V. Jester an attractive young lady of this place, were married at bride's residence, January 21st, by Rev. E. H. Miller of M. E. Church.

Mr. Geo. Robert Nock, awarded the contract, (and not J. W. H. Nock as heretofore reported), for building a large wharf on Wallon's beach, arrived from Philadelphia with sand pumps and other fixtures this week. He will begin work on same immediately.

Rev. S. U. Grimsley, pastor of our Union Baptist Church, preached his farewell sermon Sunday, 18th ult., to the regret of the citizens generally of this community. He has been a faithful pastor and the people have shown their appreciation of him in increasing his salary and by improving the church property every year during his stay here. He and his family will leave with the best wishes of our people.

Arrivals at the Atlantic this week: Capt. J. C. Jones, Fair Haven, Conn.; J. H. Feldman, Wm. Powell, R. S. Stant, W. S. Holland, G. H. Rolph, J. G. Minson, Baltimore; J. W. Fields, T. H. Mears, Philadelphia; Frank C. Hanna, M. E. Selw, J. A. Tunnell, Wilmington, Del.; J. S. Miller, Lawrenceville Ky.; J. J. Boyce, Georgetown, Del.; John B. Wise, Rev. Avery Donovan, Miss Bettie Pruitt, Accomac.

The fair held by the young ladies and gentlemen of the M. E. Church, on 20th, 21st and 22nd ults., was a decided success socially and financially. The treasurer reports \$100 clear. The lovers report a first-class time generally. The croakers—there weren't there. The committee on contributions desire me through your columns, to thank the multitude who so liberally contributed to its success. They propose holding another during Easter.

Mr. J. E. Massey, the genial and clever proprietor of the Massey Hotel and Miss Bertie Henson a popular and prepossessing young lady were married at the bride's residence on 26th inst., in the presence of a large concourse of friends by Rev. E. H. Miller. An elegant wedding feast followed the ceremony. They left on morning train Thursday on an extended tour. They were the recipients of many pretty and valuable presents.

Chincoteague has at last furnished a victim to the "green goods" swindlers of New York City. Mr. Wm. P. Reed, familiarly known as "Preacher Bill Reed," a short time ago paid the great city a visit ostensibly to be treated in one of her charity hospitals, but really to effect a deal with the "green goods" sharpers," by which for a few hundred dollars he could lay in an ample supply of the spurious, and easily palm the same off on our unsuspecting oystermen without fear of detection. His conference with the swindlers revealed the fact that he needed \$240 more of Uncle Sam's greenbacks than he had in his possession to make an exchange for the thousands of the spurious. He hastened to find his friend, Mr. Thos. Post, who kindly accommodated him with the \$240 so urgently needed, promising its return in three days. A second conference and the deal was made; this self constituted clergyman exchanging his few hundreds of genuine currency for the bogus packages supposed to contain their thousands, so much like the genuine that they would deceive the "elect."

Imagine his chagrin when, at the first opportunity, examining his riches, he found nothing but blank paper. Leaving Mr. Post to mourn over his \$240 loss, he hastened home a sadder and wiser man. Mr. Post failing to get any response to his repeated appeals by mail, paid the victim a visit a few days ago and at the muzzle of a 32 calibre revolver succeeded in effecting a settlement.

Greenbackville.

Western corn is selling in this market at 45 and 50 cents per bushel by retail.

Oysters here continue in good condition and are selling for remunerative prices. Clams are scarce, and but few of them are to be had at \$1.50 to \$1.75 per 1,000.

John L. Wilson, of Greenbackville and Miss Nora T. Tighman, of Pocomo City, Md., were married at the latter place on the 20th inst., by Rev. A. S. Mowbray.

A festival will be held at Fortville, M. P. Church on Wednesday and Thursday, March 6th and 7th, 1890. Oysters, cake, cream, &c., will be served by the ladies. A cordial invitation is extended to the public.

Samuel J. Payne, son of Ira Payne, died at the residence of his father, near Greenbackville on last Monday, the 24th inst., of consumption, aged 25 years. The deceased was a young man of promise, and his untimely demise has cast a gloom over the people of his neighborhood. The writer extends his sympathy to his bereaved family.

The people of this section of the county were very much disappointed when they learned of the refusal of the members of the House of Delegates of Virginia to pass the Senate bill, proposing to increase the salary of the Circuit Judges of the State from \$1,600 to \$2,000, as it is generally believed, that the present insignificant salary of our Circuit Judges is not enough to support them and compels them to draw upon their private funds to meet their necessary expenses. Shame upon the "Old Mother State" for her parsimoniousness.

Modestown.

The farmers around here are very actively engaged in the preparation of their potato beds. There will be a decided increase in this crop.

Our merchants are very busy receiving their spring stock of goods—and their customers are also busy purchasing the same—business is active.

The round potato crop will be small, though the effort will be made to secure as large a quantity by an increase of the amount of fertilizers—good farming will always pay.

There will be a basket supper at the Baptist church in Modestown on Wednesday night, next, March 5th, at 7 o'clock. The proceeds of said supper to be used for the benefit of the church.

Mr. James G. Littleton and Miss Annie Mears were married at Modestown, Sunday, February 23rd, Rev. J. W. Ward of Baptist church, officiating.

The health of our town was never better. The doctors may feel a little out of humor, but the people will not complain at this state of things. The cheapest and best medicine is wholesome food and active outdoor exercise.

Pungoteague.

Mr. Wm. M. Taylor, Sr., has recovered from a protracted illness and was out to town this week.

Our roads are in a miserable condition, which, however, could be easily remedied by a little ditching.

Mr. J. D. Mears, formerly of this town, but now a commercial tourist, representing Henry Maslin & Co., Baltimore, made us a visit during the week.

Peas in patch of Capt. J. H. Drimmond near Pungoteague, are six inches high, and his neighbor, Mr. Geo. L. Warren gathered ripe strawberries in his patch, February 15th.

A sociable, one of the most pleasing events of the season, was given last Wednesday to Mrs. Margie Reed, on her return from her bridal trip to Florida, by her cousin Mrs. E. M. Ames.

MASS-MEETING AT ACCOMAC C. H.

The People Protest Against Lease of Natural Oyster Beds to C. R. Lewis Bill Killed in the House.

A mass meeting of the citizens of Accomac, irrespective of political preferences, and representing every avocation and profession, assembled at Accomac C. H., last Monday, to protest against the passage of a bill reported from the Finance Committee of the House of Delegates, to lease to C. R. Lewis 3,200 acres of Pocomo sound, embracing several of the most valuable oyster beds therein, was organized by the election of Dr. John W. Bowdoin chairman and John W. Edmonds secretary.

On motion a committee appointed to draft resolutions, reported the following which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas a bill has been reported by the Finance Committee of the Virginia House of Delegates appropriating to a private individual more than three thousand acres of the most valuable natural oyster grounds in the waters of Pocomo sound, thereby depriving a large number of the Eastern Shore oystermen of the means of subsistence heretofore guaranteed to them by the laws of the State.

We, the people of Accomac county, irrespective of political preferences, in mass meeting assembled, do protest in the most emphatic manner against the enactment of such an unjust and inequitable bill into a law.

These grounds from time immemorial have been held as the property of the State for the benefit of the people. Nearly nine-tenths of the people of Accomac county on the bay side region are engaged in the oyster business and work in Pocomo sound. The prosperity of this county largely depends on the preservation of these beds for the use of the people.

Should this bill become a law, many persons who have been engaged all their lives in the oyster business, and have invested all their money in boats and oyster implements would have this property rendered almost valueless and deprived of the only means of living now open to them. The enactment of such a law would be a gross discrimination in favor of capital against the poor oystermen of the State, and strike down a large and reputable element of our population.

In the name of justice, humanity and fair dealing, we protest against the passage of such a law, and we appeal to the members of the General Assembly and our own Senator and Representatives to exhaust every means to defeat the consummation of such an outrage on the rights of the people.

The following delegates, viz: Messrs. Jno. P. L. Hopkins, Geo. W. Glenn, L. W. Childrey, Jno. W. Edmonds, Jno. B. Drummond, Chas. P. Finney and Dr. Jno. W. Bowdoin, were selected at the meeting to lay before the Finance Committee of House of Delegates said resolutions and to use all other honorable efforts in their power to defeat the bill in question.

Messrs. Hopkins, Glenn, Childrey and Edmonds, four of the delegates selected, went to Richmond in accordance with instructions given them, and together with the representatives from the Eastern Shore were heard by Finance Committee on Wednesday. Assurances received by members of said committee and other representatives to whom the injustice of leasing said oyster grounds to Lewis was presented, that no such legislation was possible, have been confirmed by telegrams received from Mr. Childrey, who remained behind to look after the matter until bill was called in House on Thursday.

RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 27, 1890.

PENINSULA ENTERPRISE: Lewis' bill came up in House this morning as per special order. It was passed by John Neely here as counsel for Lewis. I will stay here until tomorrow.

L. W. CHILDREY.

RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 27, 1890.

PENINSULA ENTERPRISE: Lewis' bill virtually killed in House. No hope of getting it through this session. Leave for home tonight.

L. W. CHILDREY.

Important Letter on the Oyster Question.

To the Editor of the Dispatch.

As a reader of your daily, and seeing so many communications upon the oyster question, which seems to be worrying our legislators so much, especially those above Tidewater, who strange to say, make up the majority of our committees to whom such questions are properly referred; and believing that no one economic question now before our General Assembly is of so much importance, affecting so many people whose livelihood depends solely upon the oyster industry, and to an equal degree indirectly affecting the revenues of our State, is my excuse for asking a place in your valuable paper for this communication. In all that has been said upon the subject no one has called special attention to the indirect advantages and revenues the State derives from the oyster industry, and who seem simply to look no further than the actual amount of dollars collected under our oyster laws. I will first suggest that if they examine the Auditor's office they will learn that a large surplus from our old oyster navy now remains to the credit of the oyster fund, or at least has been turned into our Treasury. They will find that from the years 1865 to 1883, inclusive, the receipts from the oyster tax over disbursements were over \$206,000, so that the small deficit during the past fiscal year should not alarm our friends from other sections of the State. They should also remember the many thousands of dollars the State gets indirectly from the industry. Some lands here that now readily sell for from one to two hundred dollars per acre, and scarcely worth five, would not sell at the latter price for purely agricultural purposes should this industry be destroyed or not be properly protected. Flourishing towns and villages have grown up, whose sole success and prosperity depend upon this business. Notably I may mention Chincoteague Island, whose growth and prosperity is scarcely surpassed by any other part of the State, and certainly by no other part of our county; also, Franklin City and Greenbackville, two other notable instances. I can also call to mind a narrow strip of land lying between two rivers, not more than one mile in width by two in length in which is located fifteen stores of general merchandise and some doing a large business, whose entire trade is from the oystermen, which, of course, pay their proportion of revenue to the State—destroy this industry and two would suffer for the needs of the inhabitants, who would or could remain. These people know no other occupation and necessity would compel them to leave the State and seek other fields where they could gain support for their families. Many of our farmers who do not live directly upon Tidewater find a ready and remunerative market for all they grow, without the intervention of middlemen, freight charges, or commissions among the oystermen, and I may add, it indirectly enhances the value of their farms also. The taxable values of this county would be largely destroyed should this industry be injured, and the State would lose many thousands of dollars in revenue. It is scarcely necessary to mention the boats and other necessary implements of their trade, and directly to the revenues of the State. The State should certainly enforce all her laws, even if it costs something to do, and why, I ask, should the oyster laws be an exception? And to enforce them these must be

AN OYSTER NAVY.

Have we not heard much recently about the large criminal expenses of the State. In some countries, it is said, the criminal expenses exceed the revenues. Would the State be excusable in not enforcing her laws in those countries, even if it costs something to do so. Collecting a tax for the privilege of taking oysters is of recent origin, but the desire to protect the natural beds dates back many years. Even so long ago as January, 1811, a law was enacted in regard to the mode of taking oysters, looking to their protection, saying "there shall not be used any drag, scoop, rake, or other instrument except tongs."

But, as Senator Stubbs well says, "our people do claim protection and admit the fact that they must and will pay taxes," and I may add will gladly and willingly do so. The present law is properly amended would not only be self-sustaining, but would leave a direct revenue for the State. I have said much in past years upon the subject, that has been written by Professor Brooks, Lieutenant Winslow, and other scientists about the natural history, artificial propagation, oyster-farming, &c., and while I think if our laws could be amended so as to encourage especially oyster-farming and make it a safe investment for those who would engage in it that it would add largely to our revenues and to the supply also, yet I think we of Tidewater from daily observation and association with those directly engaged in the business must know something about the wants and necessities of oystermen and the laws that should regulate the same. True, there is a clause in our constitution which says "no tax shall be imposed on any of the citizens of this State for the privilege of catching or taking oysters from their natural beds with tongs in the waters thereof," &c., which has prevented a proper tax being placed upon that mode of taking oysters. What are known as "patent tongs" are now being largely used by the dredgers, who have heretofore paid the greater part of the revenue, and if some mode is not devised at this session of our Legislature to tax them there will be a much larger deficit the next fiscal year. Probably the boats could be taxed according to length.

ALL TAXES should be paid annually and dredgers allowed to take oysters with ordinary tongs under their dredging license, in consideration of the large proportion they pay. The tax for the privilege of taking oysters by dredging should not be increased, as all now recognize that they (the dredgers) pay even more than their just share of the revenues. The number of inspectors should be largely reduced, and with it the commission they receive. More protection could be given—which is greatly desired—

without any additional expense, by reducing the amounts now paid for protection. The penalty for illegal dredging should be made simply a fine collectable before a justice, would add much to the revenue. Instead of being an expense to the State, as now, the tax upon planting grounds should be increased. The laws should be more strictly enforced, especially with those who attempt to work without license. No oysters under a certain size should be allowed to be taken from the natural beds, except perhaps, for one month in the spring, and then only for planting purposes within the State. Other suggestions could be made, but this article is already too long. One, however, I would add: Instead of our present board, whose duties upon other subjects, are many and varied and who would hardly, I imagine, like to be relieved from this one. None being from Tidewater, and of course not familiar with the wants of the oystermen and the changes in the laws that should be made from time to time. A commission or board from Tidewater to manage the navy, unpaid except actual expenses, could in their reports to the Governor or General Assembly, give many valuable suggestions as to such changes in the laws, as they thought would add to the efficiency of the navy, increase the revenues, and prevent the depletion of our natural beds. A suggestion has been made, or a resolution offered I think, to rent the beds at one dollar per acre. Such a proposition is absurd to those familiar with the question. Many natural beds here are worth hundreds of dollars per acre and would readily be taken up by capitalists at that price, but in a very short time our oysters would be gone, the State cease to receive revenue, and thousands of families driven from the State for want of employment. I hope Senator Stubbs will continue to fight it out on his line if it takes all winter, for much depends upon the wisdom with which the General Assembly deals with the question, not alone to the State, but to our party. All our oystermen here are white, and while they are not Democrats for revenue it is a question of life and death with them and their families, and any inimical legislation would certainly injure the party enacting it.

Yours respectfully,

FRANK FLETCHER.

Accomac county, Va.

The Board of Supervisors, at its meeting Friday, February 21st, adjourned until March 17th. At their last meeting they decided to make improvements in the county jail and bids are wanted, as will be noted elsewhere, from parties willing to contract for same. The Board also advertises for applicants to collect delinquent taxes. In the matter of establishment of a chain gauge, it was agreed to submit same to a judge of the county court. Action was also deferred on the road question, until that matter was disposed of by our Legislature.

DIED.

BROWN—At her home near Keller, February 22nd, of cancer, Mrs. Margaret Brown, widow of Capt. Charles Brown, aged 64 years—and was interred at Holles Baptist church, of which she had been for many years a member, on Monday.

GLENN—At his home near Gaycha, Monday, February 24th, of pneumonia, William T. Glendon, aged about 55 years.

BELL—At his home near Wachapreague, Tuesday, February 18th, of cancer, Lorenzo D. Bell, aged 83 years.

RUSSELL—February 11th, 1890, of "grip" near Guilford, Mrs. Mary J. Russell, wife of Frank Russell, aged about 24 years.

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BUSINESS NOTICES.

The leading merchants sell Hiawatha flour.

NOTICE—Stock of goods for sale, store and dwelling for rent on one of the best business corners in Onancock. Apply in person, or write to M. H. Hamblin, Onancock, Va.

NOTICE—I have for sale, Peruvian guano, Worcester guano, Pocomo phosphate, dry fish scrap, and 625 glass at bottom prices, also fine salt in sacks, D. H. Johnson.

Good bread is the result of using Hiawatha.

FOR SALE.—At my shop at Leemont and at store of J. C. Justice & Co., Hunting Creek, dredge boats, man, unadorned both by the undersigned and C. L. Marsh, patentee.

A. J. McGraw, Leemont, Va. I do hereby notify all oystermen to be cautious in purchasing the deep water oyster tongs. They should see that they are properly stamped. I will be sure to look after both the purchaser and maker of them, and everyone infringing on my rights will be handled according to law. C. L. Marsh, Inventor of deep water to-gs.

Ask those who have used it, about Hiawatha.

NOTICE—I want to buy hogs of all sizes and any quantity. D. H. Johnson, Leemont, Va.

Get a bag or barrel of Hiawatha flour and try it.

NOTICE—All kinds of well pumps driven by the undersigned at fair prices in any part of the county—deep well pumps a specialty. All material furnished if desired. John C. Boice, Parksley, Va.

If you wish to save money, buy your tobacco of F. W. Byrd, representative of Jas. Myer & Co.

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FOR SALE—One good farm horse, five years old, gentle, and well broken. Apply to Mrs. E. F. C. Garrett, Accomac C. H.

NOTICE—I hereby request all persons having claims against the estate of Edward J. Taylor, deceased, or in which he is bound as surety, to make the same known to me at once. Solomon T. Johnson, adm'r.